Harassment of Ordinary Citizens during VIP Movement

2167. DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the revised policy laid down with regard to VIP Security; and

(b) the measures proposed to ensure that ordinary citizens are not harassed or stopped on the roads on account of VIP security/ movement unheard of in most foreign countries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CH. VIDYASAGAR RAO): (a) The system of security and the issues related thereto have been reviewed by the Government and the "New Policy on Security of Individuals' has been announced on 7.2.2000. The main changes which have been made in the policy on security include — (i) changing the nomenclature of VIP security to personal security; (ii) security will be provided on the basis of assessment of threat made by Security Agencies and threat should predominantly come from militants/terrorists; (iii) MHA will not recommend allotment or retention of Government accommodation on security considerations in any case; (iv) periodical review of security every six months; and (v) making security unobtrusive, etc.

(b) The security of the VVIPs constantly remains under review. The endeavour of the Government is to ensure that the inconvenience casued to the general public due to the movements of the VVIPs is kept to the minimum.

Shelving on Visakhapatnam thermal power project

2168. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government shelved the Visakhapatnam 1040 MW thermal power project in the private sector;

(b) if so, what are the details and reasons for this situation; and

(c) if not, by when the project should start functioning?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Counter guarantee of Government of India has been issued to the project on August 19, 1998. The project is scheduled for commissioning after 44 months from the date of financial closure by the promoters.